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UNM Foundation Announces Sandia National Laboratories Gift of \$5,000 to the School of Engineering Student Race Car Program

The UNM Foundation is pleased to announce that Sandia National Laboratories continues to support the University of New Mexico (UNM) with its most recent award of \$5,000 for the School of Engineering Formula Society of Automotive Engineers (FSAE) race car program. Since early 2008, Sandia has contributed more than \$80,000 to UNM programs.

"Sandia's contribution to the UNM FSAE program is a tremendous acknowledgement of the value of this program," says Dr. John J. Russell, UNM professor of mechanical engineering and faculty adviser. "Many Sandians have helped the program in the past. Both the team and I are exceptionally proud to be recognized by Sandia for the engineering experience and community service value the program provides."

FSAE is an annual international collegiate engineering competition in which students must design and build their own open-wheel race car from scratch. UNM has been participating in Formula SAE Competitions since 1998. In 2004, UNM established itself as a top competitor, placing 14th out of 120 teams.

From the beginning, UNM has stood out among universities in that the UNM FSAE program is one of two programs in the nation structured as transcripted, academic courses rather than as a volunteer student club. The program is one of two options for completing the required senior design project for a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering. Further linking FSAE to experiences students will have in the automotive industry, the students work in a corporate structured team with a project manager, sub-groups, a marketing department and systems engineers.

Mike DeWitte, deputy director and group manager of public relations and communications at Sandia, is particularly pleased with the strong Sandia student employee and volunteer relationship with the FSAE team. "This is an awesome example of a partnership that benefits students, future employees and both institutions," says DeWitte.

Sandia has been a longtime sponsor and partner with the FSAE program and is again one of the lead sponsors of the 2009 FSAE team. FSAE teams routinely include Sandia UNM student employees. Current Sandia engineers Mark Howard (former team leader) and Victor Padilla are

two recent FSAE program alumni. The current FSAE team includes nine Sandia student employees including Sloan Pearsall, 2009 team leader. "We regard Sandia's support with special affection given their prestigious reputation in science and engineering," Pearsall says.

The FSAE West competition where UNM students will compete in June 2009 takes place in Fontana, Calif., and is the second largest FSAE competition in the United States, drawing more than 80 teams.

UNM's FSAE race car, run under the auspices of LoboMotorsports, involves multiple pre-FSAE sanctioned practice and competition events with audiences ranging from hundreds to thousands of participants and spectators. Total annual cost for the car's construction and student participation in competition is about \$75,000. UNM's annual FSAE costs are a bare-bones \$74,000 compared to other public and private universities where costs have ranged as high as \$1.6 million.

To date, more than 125 UNM students have participated in this highly regarded program. In 2008, Honda selected four UNM FSAE team members from thousands of job seekers applying for 20 positions in the company's auto division.

The donation for the FSAE program is Sandia and Lockheed Martin's most recent gift to the University. They also have provided generous support to other UNM initiatives including the NWNM Regional Science and Engineering Fair and the Science Education Institute of the Southwest, an innovative program that provides summer science classes for K-12 educators.

To make your own contribution for student success at UNM , contact the UNM Foundation at www.unmfund.org.

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